

Listing Of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (previously amended): A process for the production of a particulate detergent or detergent premix component comprising the steps of coating a particle comprising one or more alkali metal percarbonates with a flowable acidic component consisting of stearic acid, to form particles wherein the amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula $m_c/(m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_c is the weight of the acidic component applied, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle in μm , and c is a factor of 0.5 length units to 20 length units.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein the particle has a radius r of 100 μm to 1,000 μm .

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein c is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein the flowable acidic component is solid at room temperature and is applied to the particle in a flowable form at a process temperature above room temperature.

Claim 15 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein the acidic component is applied to the particle over a period of 5 minutes to 20 minutes.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously amended): A method of preparing a detergent composition comprising the steps of providing a flowable acidic component consisting of stearic acid, providing a particle comprising one or more alkali metal carbonates and applying the flowable acidic component to the particle, to form a particulate detergent or detergent premix component particles wherein the amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula $m_a/(m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_c is the weight of the acidic component applied, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle in μm , and c is a factor of 0.5 length units to 20 length units, and mixing the particulate detergent or detergent premix component with at least one other particulate component to form the detergent composition.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18, wherein that at least one other particulate component comprises at least one active ingredient of which the washing or cleaning effect is greater at a lower pH value than that established after dissolution of the alkaline detergent ingredient of the particulate premix than it is at the pH value established during dissolution of the said particulate premix.